

Terms said, that if there was any Similitude between your House and the Other (not that which now Composes a separate Branch of the *British* Parliament, but such a Dependent House as was mentioned in the Case) then there was no Foundation for the Answer you gave; and you in your last Message, say, that because you cannot be liken'd to the present House of Peers, therefore your Answer is just from our own Conclusion: It had been well for the sake of your Honours, this Paragraph had been omitted, lest the Publick should say that this indirect Answer proceeded from an impossibility of giving a better.

Altho' the Council in some other Plantations may be Appointed by the King, and removeable by the Governors, yet we have been inform'd, that unless in some especial Cases, they are incapable of holding Offices, while they have a share in the Legislature; and with good Reason we may be allowed to say, that there is a wide Difference between the Appointment of the King, who can have no View, but what concerns the general Welfare of his People, and that of a Proprietary or Governor, whose private Interests frequently clash with that of the Community, nor was it the Dependency of this and all the other Plantation Governments on that of our Mother Country which we hinted at, but the Subserviency of any one Part of our Legislature to another.

It is needless to dwell upon the Offer we made, of the Bill for Arms, &c. to determine at a certain Day, it is clear from our Words, that we propos'd the Time of Duration should be proportion'd to the present Necessity, upon which your Honours, immediately took upon you the sole Right of Judging of that Necessity, and so set down Nine Years; it might be presum'd reasonable that we should have some Share in that Consideration, and the nature of our Proposal was such, that by Conference and mature Deliberation of both Houses, the Time of Continuance might have been agreed upon; otherwise you might have made it Ninety Nine, or any greater Number of Years.

We deny the Intention of totally dropping the Law for Arms, so long as there shall appear any Necessity for keeping it on Foot, and assert it to be our undoubted Right, as the legal Representatives of the People, to Judge of that Necessity, the Sums requisite to be raised, and the Time of continuance.

As to your great Care of not Burthening the Trade, or putting the Merchants to procure a Dissent to the Law, if it was for more than *Three Pence*, we can only say, that Duties amounting to *Six Pence*, have not long since been on our Tobaccos, with the present Imposts, and yet we never then heard any Complaint from your Honours or the Merchants about it.